



European Union

IN2018-54 UNISPACE
(20-21 June)
EU Statement

**Statement on the occasion of the UNISPACE + 50 - High Level Segment of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Vienna, 20 – 21 June 2018**

Your excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Madame Chair,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States. The following countries align themselves with this statement: Turkey[§], the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Serbia*, Albania*, Bosnia and Herzegovina*, Ukraine, Norway+, the Republic of Moldova and Armenia.
2. Allow me first to thank you, for chairing this session, and to thank Director Di Pippo and the Office for Outer Space Affairs, for the excellent preparation for UNISPACE + 50. In the interest of time I will read a summary of the EU statement and the full version is available in the room.
3. Chair, space is a driver of economic growth and innovation for the benefits of all people. Space science, activities and technologies contribute to tackling major challenges such as climate change, disaster management, food security, transport development, and the protection of the environment and of scarce resources. They also boost the competitiveness of industry well beyond the space sector, thereby contributing to job creation and socio-economic development in almost all economic areas worldwide. They also accelerate innovation and have an increasing role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.
4. We underline the unique opportunity for this High Level meeting, UNISPACE +50, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of UNISPACE, to discuss the achievements and challenges in space, to launch the development of a space 2030 agenda and its implementation plan, and to propose the strengthening of the mandates of COPUOS and UNOOSA accordingly. The space 2030 process should start immediately after the UNISPACE + 50 event and should be carried out by a working group that would meet regularly for that purpose.
5. Chair, in the European Union, we have developed strong and unique space capacities and industry, allowing us to take part in major space endeavours. The EU, its Member States and ESA together have the second largest budget for space in the world. Our technology and expertise make the EU a heavyweight on global space markets. The aim of the EU and its Member States is to be an autonomous and cooperative space power.
6. The EU space flagship programmes Galileo/EGNOS and Copernicus have made impressive progress recently. When the Galileo satellite navigation system is fully operational in 2020, it will allow improved services and provide new business opportunities in a wide variety of

[§] Candidate Country

* Candidate Countries Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia as well as potential Candidate Countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

+ Norway is a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.

applications in many sectors of the economy worldwide. Copernicus is the user-driven European Earth observation and monitoring programme and its data and services are available on a full, open and free-of-charge basis to users.

7. Also space research and innovation are currently supported in the Horizon 2020 programme, which will support the competitiveness of the European space sector and help tackle societal challenges, and is open to international cooperation.
8. Chair, space is a responsibility, as well as a dream and an ambition. Space is a global common, and it requires global rules. We believe that the 1967 Outer Space Treaty and other international space law as developed in the UN framework will remain the cornerstone of global governance of outer space and that COPUOS and its subcommittees are the main forum for an inclusive dialogue on space law and space policy issues.
9. We also stress the importance of Transparency and Confidence Building Measures, providing an important contribution to the security, safety and sustainability of activities in outer space, and the importance of promoting principles of responsible behaviour in outer space in the framework of the United Nations and other appropriate multilateral fora.
10. Now that operators are starting to launch constellations composed of hundreds or thousands of satellites, the risk of collisions and subsequent clogging up of orbits due to the resulting debris increases. New technologies of Space Surveillance and Tracking (SST), active space debris removal or service satellites in orbit could play an important role in ensuring the sustainable use of space. We therefore underline the need to foster increased international cooperation, establish standards of responsible behaviour and sustainable use across the full range of space activity strengthen commitments to non-interference in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space, facilitate equitable access to outer space and increase transparency of outer space activities.
11. We continue to believe there would be value in agreeing a non-legally binding instrument, potentially to be negotiated within the framework of the UN, as a way to deliver these objectives. Such a political commitment would build upon the COPUOS achievements on the Long Term Sustainability Guidelines and would be complementary to these Guidelines. It would contribute to responsible behaviour and constitute a transparency and confidence building measure in outer space by creating a voluntary mechanism for notification of operations, such as scheduled manoeuvres, that could pose a risk to life or property on the ground or to the safety of flight of the space objects of other States.
12. Chair, exploring is inherent to human nature and should benefit all. Exploration is about science, but also education, economy and society. It provides a deep fascination, inspiration and pride, especially for a young generation. Exploring space triggers creativity and innovation by the very nature of its challenges. The International Space Station is a great example of a long-lasting international cooperation for peaceful purposes. Exploration needs to be open to partnerships between space-faring actors and newcomers. On a geopolitical level, exploring the solar system has the potential to enhance international and global diplomatic relations. We believe that ISEF-2 in Tokyo earlier this year was the right Forum to discuss the ubiquitous aspects of space exploration at a global level. We will take even further the ambition of this forum during ISEF-3, which will be hosted in Europe.
13. Chair, it is evident that extreme space weather events may disrupt the operation of space assets and critical infrastructures on which our daily lives increasingly depend. We would therefore support actions aimed at increasing the awareness of space weather events and their potential consequences with all stakeholders. We would also encourage authorities to categorize extreme space weather as a "natural hazard", and operators of space infrastructure and services to invest in increased resilience of their systems.

14. Finally Chair, the European Union's increasingly important space programmes and services are often made available to the world community (e.g. Copernicus) for the benefit of all Nations. The space arena is becoming more and more complex. It needs clear rules and a forum where dialog is possible to follow the evolutions with a consensual approach. We believe COPUOS and UNOOSA should continue to play a unique role in this context. UNISPACE+50 offers a unique opportunity to underline that space assets and activities already contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the European Union reaffirms its commitment to continue being an active player in the development of space activities in this respect.

Thank you Chair
